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DEC 10 2004

AMENDMENTS

In the Abstract

Please replace the abstract beginning on Page 41, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

A method for scheduling the manufacture of an item in a factory which includes planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window, determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method, and determining a carrier service for shipping the item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method is disclosed.